

REMARKS

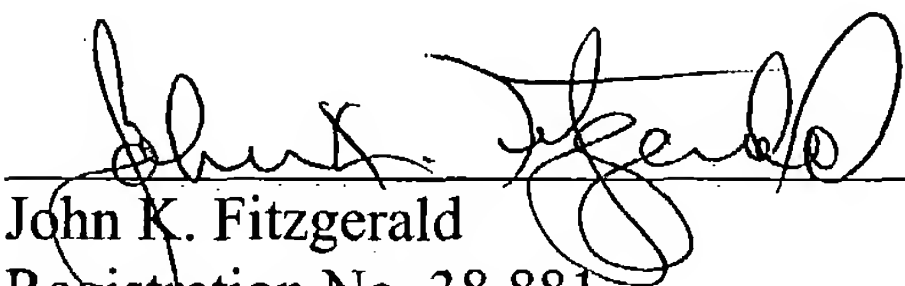
This Preliminary Amendment is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) concurrently with a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/563,946 filed May 2, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/138,830, filed August 24, 1998, which claimed priority of 60/185,561, February 28, 2000. Applicants claim priority to all of the applications in the chain.

Claims 1-21 and 30-35 have been canceled, claims 24, 29 and 36 have been amended and new claims 37-44 have been added. Thus, claims 20-29 and 36-44 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

It is respectfully requested that the application be examined at the earliest possible convenience. Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 06-2425 for any fees in connection with this preliminary amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John K. Fitzgerald
Registration No. 38,881

JKF:vmm

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
20234